



Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Wednesday, January 10, 2024 @ 6:00pm

See BPAC website (below) for meeting information:
<http://www.whatcomcounty.us/275/Bicycle-Pedestrian-Advisory-Committee>

Members Present: Pete Sharp, Patrick Alesse, Gary Malick, Sunny Beaver, Dick Joss, Sandy Brewer, Kelly Kendall, Ryan Corley, Excused John Upston

Staff Present: Jason Ardt (WC Public Works Liason) , Bennett Knox, Parks & Rec Director, Cliff Strong - Senior Planner, Whatcom County Planning and Development Services

Guests: Dan Kostrzewski Caroline Dietzgen Sonja Max

Meeting called to order at: 6:02 PM

1-Public comment/Public Present: Dan Kostrzewski brought to the committee's attention that a cyclist was hit on North Grace Lane, a case of hit and run. He wanted to alert folks of it. He spoke of need for separation of drivers and cyclists

Dan asked what is the process as a member of the public to advocate to county for safety improvements for cyclists. Especially as it pertains to cyclists.

It was pointed out that this area is a City of Bellingham road , not a county road

2-Guest Speaker Cliff Strong Senior Planner, Whatcom County Planning and Development Services. * 2025 Comprehensive Plan Review – Kick Off' where PDS staff will provide an overview of the task and process for the Committee's review of Ch. 6 Transportation and Ch. 9 Recreation
Gary introduced Cliff, and thanked him for all his help.

Comp Plan is to cover next 20 years. Most comprehensive update ever. Council established priorities. Asking our committee to: “ focus on the portions of the Plan that directly pertain to each committee’s advisory role. So, for example, for your committee, we’re asking that you focus on Chapter 6, Transportation, and Chapter 9, Recreation, also included in your packet. That doesn’t mean that you can’t comment on other chapters, though: As citizens any of you are welcome to participate in the Planning Commission and County Council public hearings to be held next year. But for right now, we just looking for the Committee’s comments.”

What major issues need to be addressed - We should draft our own list for the Feb meeting when Cliff will be back. All our recommendations will be given to the consultants. What major issues need to be addressed? They'll review and come back. just looking for the big pictures.

Ryan - if next month we go thru (list) have it put together next month.

Cliff - need goals and policies, more generally.

--Discussion continued regarding the preferred route map and other items to include in the plan.

3 Gary update on Letter to Airport/Port

- Presented by Gary: Current status and content of the letter. Discussion of Future Steps

Sonja did a wonderful job drafting a letter to the port regarding Kope road thru the Lockwood Property, Due to a email communication error an invite was not sent to Jed Holmes of the Executive’s office. Mr. Holmes wanted to suggest some strategies on this type of communication. Gary and or Ryan will plan to meet with him during the coming weeks and report back to the committee.

4 Update on meeting Ryan had with public works director Elizabeth Kosa,

Presented by Ryan. They discussed detours of bicycles and pedestrians in construction zones and policies related to this. Wasn’t aware of specific policies in the county or if was a state law

- Was open to creating a policy if we found it didn't already exist in state law.

Ryan shared these resources on this subject:

Some other city's for reference to walk through policies

■ NYC: ● <https://nyc.streetsblog.org/2019/05/29/construction-firms-must-create-safe-detour-for-cyclists-or-have-their-permits-revoked>

● <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3704357 &GUID=011D0D83-B9DD-4947-86AC-88F162D90F31&Options=ID%7cText%7c&Search=1163-A>

● <https://nyc.streetsblog.org/2018/10/03/five-questions-for-manhattan-council-member-carlina-rivera>

■ Portland: ● <https://nyc.streetsblog.org/2016/06/30/portland-tells-builders-give-pedestrians-and-cyclists-safe-detours>

● Publicity.

■ Seattle ● <https://www.seattlebikeblog.com/2015/10/15/sidewalk-closed-must-be-a-last-resort-for-construction-proposed-city-rule-says/>

● <https://www.seattle.gov/transportation/document-library/directors-rules-and-ordinances> .

■ Copenhagen ● <https://www.seattlebikeblog.com/2011/04/11/how-copenhagen-accommodates-cyclists-during-road-work/>

Jason advised we should check for rural areas or counties that have policies. Says it appears that policies on detours, etc already exist. MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.) Has been adopted into State law and county code. Let's see what already exists in County and State ordinances before we try to come up with something new.

Ryan and Elizabeth also discussed the 3' passing law, she appreciates the letter that Pete had written in the newsletter. They also discussed means to communicate these ideas such as various forms of social media.

Further discussion was had on the multi modal planner position. Public Works paying 1/3 for multi-modal planner ○ So, envision lots of collaboration between BPAC and this role.

Marine Drive project; She brought up delay due to tire dust study. Not possible to add off street travel due to private land

Signage- Discussed and agreed with perceived value of signage. Lower cost, measurable safety improvements. Ryan brought up the three following points :

- 3 feet of space for passing
 - Bikes may take up full lane
 - Speedometer signs. Whatcom county only has 1 permanent speedometer and two mobile ones. Very high request volume, not as effective once moved, folks return to higher speeds.
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5 Follow-ups and wrap-ups.

There were questions on the multi-modal planner position, Bennett said that the multi-modal position in Parks was approved by Council and that he expects to have an employee in the position by late Summer/early Fall.

Sonja and Stephen have resigned from the committee and Gary and Ryan will be interviewing 2 candidates this month

Inspirational Video was shared by Ryan about the Santa Barbara's closure of State Street.

Closing Remarks: Gary mentioned the projects that the Lummi Nation have completed for bicycles and Pedestrians and suggested communication with them on future projects.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:54pm

